

THE ALGEBRA GENERATED BY SIMPLE ELEMENTS OF A MATRIX CENTRALIZER

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Abstract. Let $\mathcal{C}(S)$ denote the centralizer of an arbitrary square matrix S . An element $A \in \mathcal{C}(S)$ is simple if $A - I$ is of rank 1. Let \mathcal{A}_S denote the subalgebra generated by the simple elements of $\mathcal{C}(S)$. We use the Weyr canonical form to describe the subalgebra \mathcal{A}_S , and we show that if $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ are the distinct eigenvalues of S , and l is the number of defective eigenvalues of S , then \mathcal{A}_S is of dimension $l + \sum_{i=1}^k \text{nullity}(S - \lambda_i I)^2$.

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